



Trails

Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2009-10

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

7th Edition

Release Date: July 1, 2010

Identify

100% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database

23.75 miles awaiting further development

Study

81.94% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment.

12.76 miles

Plan

72.24% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development.

36.75 miles

Design

44.30% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents.

3.91 miles

Construct

41.33% of projects have been or are currently being constructed.

0.73 miles

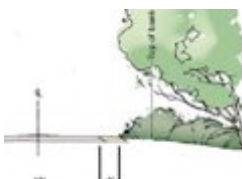
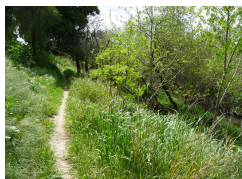
Open

40.77% of projects are open to the public.

53.63 miles

35.93 (paved)

17.70 (interim)



Program Overview

The Trail Program's mission is to develop a 100-mile trail network comprised of 35 individual trail systems as defined by the Greenprint and consistent with the Mayor and City Council's Green Vision.

This seventh annual report updates residents, the Mayor and City Council, and other stakeholders on progress made over the past 12 months.

Readers of this report will note that many of the on-going projects result in master plans and construction documents. These projects do not provide immediate public access but place the City in an excellent position to competitively pursue grants that can lead to construction of additional trails.

Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

An Award of Merit was received at the California Trails and Greenways Conference for Albertson Parkway (0.5 mile).

The California Parks and Recreation Society honored San José with an Award of Merit for the Coyote Creek Trail (0.5 mile) from Tully Road to Los Lagos Golf Course.

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded San José's Trail Program with its Exemplary Human Environment Initiatives (EHEI) award for development of a transportation project that creates conditions for human activities.



San José maintained its bronze status with the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle friendly city in part due to the large and growing trail network.

An image of the Guadalupe River Trail was the award-winning “Best Urban Trail” image in American Trails Organization’s annual photography contest.

Access to recreation played a role in acknowledgement from several other publications. Forbes Magazine ranked San Jose as the No. 3 best city for the outdoors. CNN Money ranked San José as the 7th best place for a healthy retirement, and featured a photograph of Coyote Creek Trail.

Special Designations

The Coyote Creek Trail was designated as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. A public celebration occurred in August 15, 2009 coinciding with opening of the trail to the public.



Trail Count 2009

Volunteers from the Friends of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and the Almaden Cycling Touring Club joined with City of San José staff to conduct the third annual count and survey of trail users. This year’s count included data collection along four trails. A 12-hour count occurred on a Wednesday in mid-September.



- Overall use increased by 9.6%.
- Round-trips of 10 miles or more doubled over 2008 counts.
- 68.3% of trail users reported feeling very safe. Only 1% reported feeling unsafe.
- 39.9% of trail users reported increasing their use of the trail significantly over the past 2 years.

The Trail Count Fact Sheet and detailed Summary Report have been sourced by the *Rails to Trails Conservancy* as a guide for other agencies to follow in documenting trail usage.

See the “Reports” section of the website for more information about Trail Count.

Website Development

The program’s website continued to improve over the past year with addition of a Tourism page that educates visitors about the top 10 attractions found along or near the Guadalupe River Trail.

A link to Google Maps leads visitors to San José’s official trail alignments.

Green Vision

The City’s Green Vision sets forth ten goals to make San José the epicenter of the clean technology economy. Goal 10 guides staff in delivery of 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022.

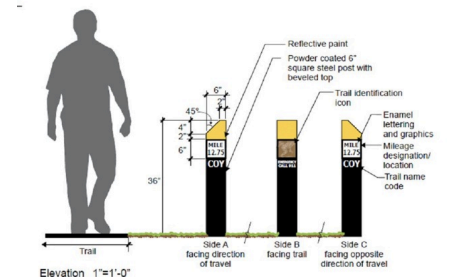
Pavement of new trails lags the Green Vision annual target (2.3 miles vs. 3.3 miles). However, over 9 miles (mostly along Coyote Creek) are currently being master planned and will be ready for design and construction as funding becomes available.

Signage / Milestone Marker Guidelines

Guidelines for new signs have been developed. The signs are more graphics-based and easier to understand. Their unified design theme, scale and size permit them to be clustered in a visually-cohesive manner. Funding is in place (FY10/11 Budget) for the replacement of existing signs.

The Guidelines also define usage of an innovative milestone (mileage) marker system. This first-of-its-kind project will help trail users gauge distances and permit more rapid response from emergency services. At the time of installation, the location of the markers is precisely identified using GPS, and data about the trail surface, entry / exit points and any physical constraints are noted. Each marker will possess a unique code so that 911 Center staff now its precise location and the best means for service vehicles to gain access.

Reporting of incidents can now occur because the markers will serve as street addresses for police and other incident reports.



Grant Writing

Staff utilizes a Council-approved prioritization process to rank and align projects with grant funding opportunities. This approach ensures that the existing trail systems continue to expand in a logical manner and that the City targets grant applications in the most strategic manner. Over the past year, staff wrote and submitted 15 grant applications (three times the average annual rate) seeking over \$20,000,000 in funding. Staff also coordinated with CPUC staff and Calpine to successfully secure \$23,000 in funding support for the Highway 237 Bikeway project.

Project	Grant / Amount	Status
Hetch-Hetchy Ramp / Staircase	SR2T / \$500k	Declined
Tasman Drive Under-Crossing	SR2T / \$500k	Declined
Highway 237 Bikeway (Zanker to McCarthy)	EEMP / \$350k	Awarded
Lower Silver Creek Trail (Miguelito to Alum Rock Avenue)	Prop 84 / \$1.8M	Awaiting Notification
Coyote Creek (Story-Phelan)	Prop 84 / \$3M	Awaiting Notification
Bay Trail 9 and 9B	Prop 84 / \$3M	Awaiting Notification
(3 Creeks) Willow Glen Spur/Bellevue Park	Prop 84 / \$2.2M	Awaiting Notification
Guadalupe River Trail (Willow to Virginia)	Prop 84 / \$3.3M	Awaiting Notification
Guadalupe River Trail (Tasman Under-Crossing)	CDT / \$660k	Awarded
Coyote Creek Trail (Hwy 237 Bikeway to Tasman Dr LRT)	BTA / \$724,500	Awaiting Notification
Coyote Creek Trail (280 to Story Road)	Rec Trails / \$1.7M	Awaiting Notification
Coyote Creek Trail (Tasman Dr LRT to Montague Exp)	Prop 40 / \$450k	Awaiting Notification
Edenvale Trail and Pedestrian Bridge Study	CBTP / \$250k	Awaiting Notification

Project	Grant / Amount	Status
Penitencia Creek (Noble Ave-Dorel Dr)	SCVWD / \$300k	Awarded
Los Gatos Creek Trail Reach 5	BEP / \$1,250,000	Awaiting Notification

Safer Trails

Two community meetings and two Parks & Recreation Commission meetings supported development of recommendations to make trails safer. Deployment of new rules and signage, centerline striping and mileage markers were seen as important additions to the network.

Staff will present recommendations to the City Council in Fall 2010.

Social Networking

A Twitter account (SanJoseTrails) was established in March 2010. "Tweets" about project updates, upcoming trail closures, and new items are being posted.



Project Updates

Albertson Parkway - Cresta Vista Drive to Curie Drive

Construction was completed in July 2009 to significantly improve an under-developed utility corridor. A substandard paved walkway and weeds were removed and replaced by a new meandering paved trail, landscaping, storm water retention basins and interpretive and memorial signage. The project was recognized with an Award of Merit from the *California Trails and Greenways Conference*.



Bay Trail Reach 9B - Alviso Slough, near Gold Street

Design and environmental work continue for a 540 foot pedestrian bridge and three under-crossing structures.

When funding for construction is secured, the future bridge and related improvements will link the Guadalupe River system to the Bay Trail and the County's Alviso Marina. The project is being developed in partnership

with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*, with joint use of lands and technical assistance.

Coyote Creek - Montague Expressway to Story Road

A master plan was completed and approved by the City Council for the trail from Highway 101 to Story Road. Master planning of the remaining reach (Montague Expressway to Highway 101) continues. Both trail reaches are being studied as part of a federally-funded project. The resulting documentation will support efforts to secure funds for construction. Development of the 9-mile trail extension will require at least five pedestrian bridges and 11 under-crossings. Expanding the funding sources makes sense for this project, particularly considering the large scope of work required. The project team regularly consults with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District* because of their concurrent planning for flood protection improvements along the creek.

Coyote Creek - Tully Road to Los Lagos Golf Course



The trail opened in July 2009 with a community celebration and designation of the entire trail system as part of the *Bay Area Ridge Trail*.

The project includes a gateway element along

Tully Road to draw the attention of residents and encourage use of the trail system. The trail system follows the creek alongside the Tully Road Ball Fields and links to Stonegate Park and older reaches of the Coyote Creek Trail system.

The project received an Award of Merit from the *California Parks and Recreation Society*.

Guadalupe Creek - Meridian Avenue to Singletree Way



Interim improvements were installed last year. Gravel surfacing and minimal signage helped to better define the trail entry at Singletree Way.

Construction documents are being prepared for future development of a

paved trail (about 500', leading users from the Singletree Way entry to the creek). Further development of the gravel maintenance roads along the creek require

additional funding that has yet to be identified. Funds for construction of the 500' project have been approved as part of the 2010/11 Budget.

Guadalupe River - Alviso to Highway 880

Construction documents are currently at the 95% stage. The past year has been spent preparing biological studies requested by permitting agencies with oversight of the project.

All studies are now completed and a final review of plans and studies is underway.

Staff expects minor comments. With any necessary revisions, staff anticipates that construction of the project will commence during Winter 2010.



Guadalupe River - Woz Way to Virginia Street

A construction contract was awarded for construction of 0.4 mile trail extension. The meandering trail follows the river, from the Children's Discovery Museum to Virginia Street, with a light rail station nearby. The project results from years of planning and careful coordination and approvals from *Caltrans* and the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*.

The paved trail, enhanced gateways and signage / striping should be completed by December 2010.

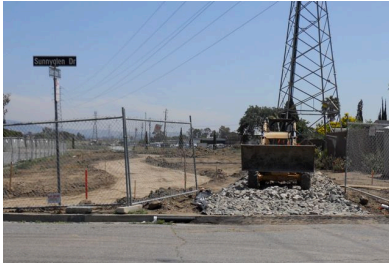


Highway 237 Bikeway - Tasman Drive to Coyote Creek

A \$350,000 grant application was submitted and approved for funding. The new funding will support reconstruction of a deteriorated road built only for temporary access during construction of the highway 15 years ago. Staff coordinated with Calpine and the California Public Utilities Commission to secure and additional \$29,000 for the project's development.

Lower Silver Creek - Silverstone Place (Foxdale Drive to Ocala Avenue)

Construction is now underway on the 0.3 mile project. The improvements will result in a meandering trail, landscaping, seating areas and retention basins. The landscaped area becomes part of a series of park spaces

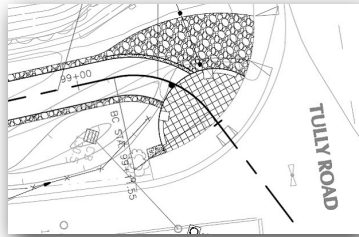


along the Lower Silver Creek Trail corridor that will someday link Thompson Creek to Coyote Creek. Construction should be completed by September 2010. The project is developed upon *Pacific Gas*

& Electric property and will operate through a joint use easement.

Lower Silver Creek / Thompson Creek - Aborn Road to Tully Avenue

An interim trail opened along the Creek in June 2008. Construction documents are being prepared for a paved trail, with gateway elements leading to the sunny trail corridor. The project developed in partnership with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*, with joint use of lands and technical assistance. No funds have yet been identified for construction of the paved trail improvements.



Penitencia Creek Trail (King Road to Mabury Road)



The 0.3 mile trail opened in November 2009. The short trail improves the condition of an existing cut-through along the creek. The project strategically includes final paved surfacing for a third of its distance. The remaining

gravel surface is in place since flood protection improvements along the creek are planned for construction within the next 10 years and would likely require removal and relocation of that portion of the trail.

Penitencia Creek Trail (Alum Rock Park to Noble Avenue)

Design work got underway to define a trail alignment that meanders near and along the roadway. A \$300,000 grant from the *Santa Clara Valley Water District* has been secured for construction of the trail between Noble Avenue and Dorel Drive.

Three Creeks Trail (formerly Willow Glen Spur Trail)- Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek

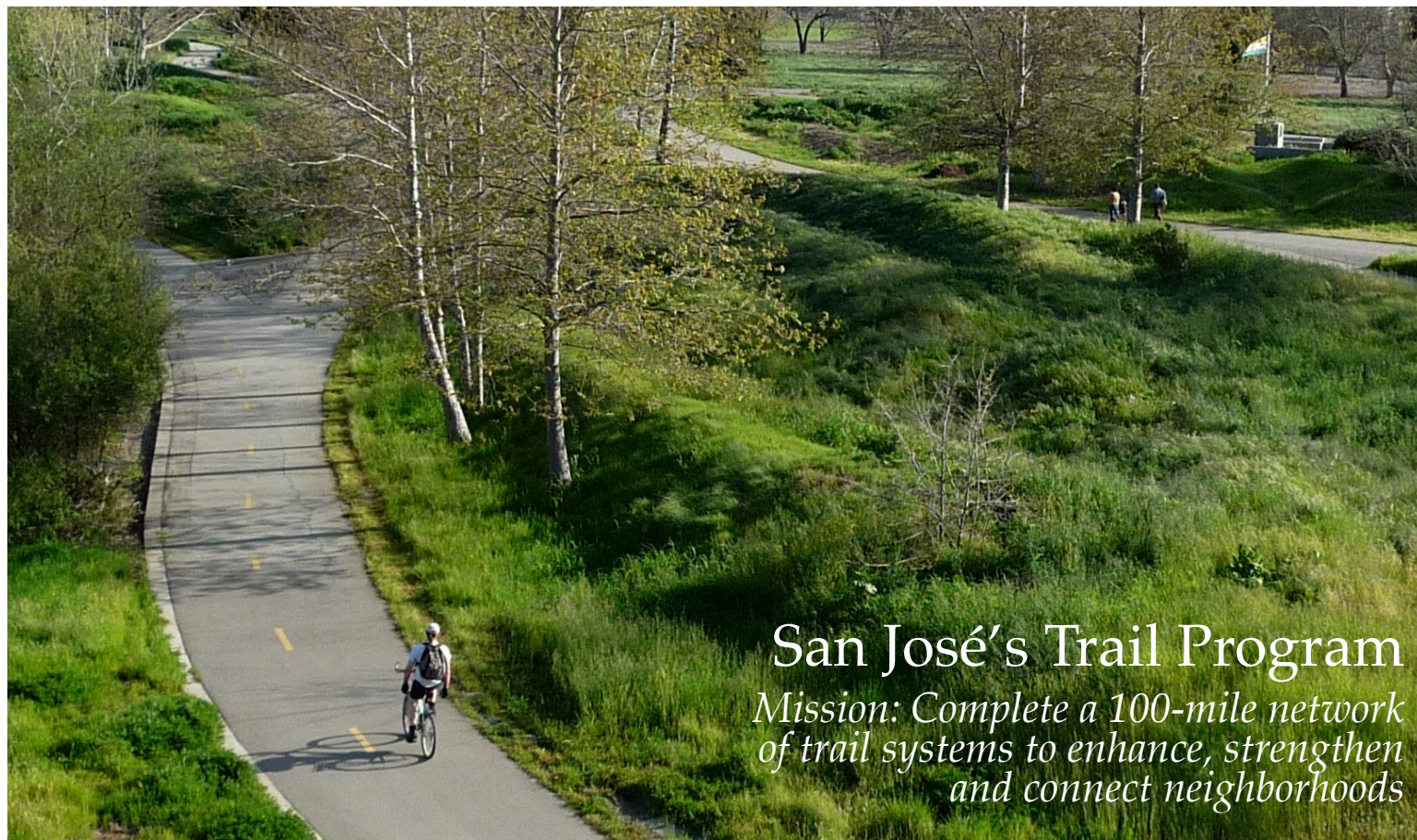
Negotiations continue with the property owner for acquisition of parcels between Coe Avenue and Minnesota Avenue. A grant application was submitted to acquire land adjacent to Bellevue Park, from Pomona Street to Monterey Highway.



Partners

Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals. Many of the projects in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- City of San José City Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - Board of Directors and Staff
- City of San José Departments and Offices
 - Public Works
 - Transportation
 - General Services
 - Environmental Services
 - Police
 - City Attorney's Office
 - Redevelopment Agency
 - City Manager's Budget Office
- Park Managers
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- State of California
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Many residents, bike groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.



San José's Trail Program

*Mission: Complete a 100-mile network
of trail systems to enhance, strengthen
and connect neighborhoods*

Annual Trail Program Report

Fiscal Year 2009-10

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